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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

5 May 1950

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM NO. 293

SUBJECT: The 26 May Communist Youth Rally in Berlin

The views expressed in CIA Intelligence Memorandum [redacted]  
[redacted] are  
main generally valid with regard to Soviet intentions.

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Events since 3 March indicate that: (1) 500,000 youths, including delegates from numerous countries, will participate in the Rally to be held from 27-30 May in the Soviet Zone of Berlin; (2) approximately 10,000 members of the East German paramilitary police will join in the Rally but are not likely to be armed; and (3) efforts will be made to stage isolated demonstrations in the Western Sectors of Berlin.

In recent weeks, Communist propaganda preparations for the Rally have become markedly less belligerent, suggesting that the USSR, in the face of vigorous Western security precautions, has modified any plan it may have had to stage a mass invasion of Western Berlin. Moreover, there is still no reason to believe that the USSR intends to use the Rally as anything more than a powerful propaganda weapon in its continuing campaign to undermine the morale of West Berliners and render untenable the position of the Western Powers in Berlin.

Despite indications that the USSR does not intend to use the Rally as a pretext for seizing West Berlin and will attempt to restrict physical violence in West Berlin to localized "spontaneous incidents," there is still a real danger that the situation will get out of hand and that scattered incidents may develop into widespread violence which could only be controlled by Allied troops. The mere fact that 500,000 thoroughly indoctrinated Communist youths will be demonstrating in a divided city already in a high state of tension as a result of Soviet pressure cannot fail to produce a potentially explosive situation.

Note: This memorandum has not been coordinated with the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S O

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